Deadline for pollution control standards

1893. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set a deadline for several industries in the critical sector to meet the pollution control standards falling which they face closure after December, 1991;

(b) if so, the names of such industries, State-wise, and the details of action taken so far in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the time limit set is inadequate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Governments have been asked to identify the defaulting units, taking into account the adequacy of the time-limit.

Forest cover in Andhra Pradesh

1894. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total forest cover in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to increase the forest area in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the State Forest Report, 1989, the actual forest cover of Andhra Pradesh is 47911 sq. Kms.

(b) Massive afforestation programme is being implemented under the 20 point programme.

Illegal trafficking of banned animal products

1895. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of illegal trafficking of banned animal products from India; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken for the protection of wild animals and checking illegal trafficking of animal products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Following steps have been taken for the protection of wild animals and prevention of illegal trafficking of animal products:—

(i) Hunting of all the wild animals except for protection of life and property and for the purpose of research, education and management of population, has been banned under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act. the Wild Life (Protection) Act, been amended to suitably enhance the penalties and punishment for various offences relating to poaching and illegal trade.

(ii) A network of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and biosphere reserve has been set up to provide protection to the wildlife. Government of India is providing Central Assistance to State Governments for development of such parks and sanctuaries.

(iii) International and internal trade in products from rare and endangered species of wildlife has been banned. Regional offices for Wildlife Preservation are involved with regulation and control of trade in wildlife products.

(iv) Anti-poaching infrastructure in the states has been strengthened. Government of India provides assistance to State Governments for strengthening